

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 08444 030939Z
ACTION EA-12

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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P R 030855Z JUL 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1234
INFO CINCPAC
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8444

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: CH, PINT
SUBJECT: FIFTY-SEVENTY ANNIVERSARY OF THE CCP COMMEMORATED BY RELEASE
OF 1962 MAO SPEECH

REF: PEKING 2001

1. WE AGREE WITH USLO PEKING'S INTERPRETATION (REFTEL) THAT PUBLICATION OF OF MAO'S 1962 SPEECH REINFORCES RECENT MEDIA ARTICLES WHICH ARE MEANT TO DOWNGRADE MAO AND MAO'S THOUGHT, ALSO, THESE ARTICLES ARGUE FOR A REINTERPRETATION OF MARXISM-LENINISM -MAO THOUGHT AS HISTORICAL CONDITIONS CHANGE. THE SPEECH, PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED ONLY IN A CULTURAL REVOLUTION (CR) ERA RED GUARD VERSION, WAS GIVEN BY MAO DURING A PERIOD WHEN LIU SHAO-CH'I WAS IN A DOMINANT POSITION AND MAO WAS NURSING HIS GREAT LEAP FORWARD-INFLICTED WOUNDS. REFERENCES TO LIU HAVE BEEN EXPUNGED FROM THE PRESENT VERSION.

2. IN HIS SPEECH, MAO RECOUNTS HOW HIS OWN THOUGHT DEVELOPED IN THE PROCESS OF STRUGGLE. MAO NOTED THAT PARTY LEADERSHIP AT ALL LEVELS, INCLUDING THE POLITBURO STANDING
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PAGE 02 HONG K 08444 030939Z

COMMITTEE, SHOULD BE COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP. AT THE SAME TIME, HE TOOK PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MISTAKES OF THE GREAT LEAP FORWARD (ANALAGOUS TO THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION?).

3. IMPORTANTLY, MAO IN HIS 1962 SPEECH, MENTIONED FAVORABLY MODERATE POLICIES ON AGRICULTURAL, INDUSTRY, EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND COMMERCE WHICH WERE PROMOTED BY LIU SHAO-CH'I

AS AN ATTEMPT TO RECOUP THE ERRORS OF THE GREAT LEAP FORWARD PERIOD. THESE POLICIES CAM BACK INTO VOGUE FOLLOWING TENG HSIAO-PING'S SECOND REHABILITATION LAST YEAR.

4. PUBLICATION OF THIS SPEECH, FOLLOWING CLOSELY ON THE JUNE 22 PEOPLE' DAILY EDITORIAL AND THE JUNE 24 LIBERATION ARMY DAILY SPECIAL COMMENTATOR ARTICLE, REINFORCES THE PRAGMATIC, MODERATE LINE OF VICE CHAIRMAN TENG, ESPECIALLY TOWARD INTELLECUTALS AND OTHER NON-PARTY ELEMENTS. WE HAD SEEN A CLEAVAGE BETWEEN THE TENG LINE AND CHAIRMAN HUA'S ATTEMPT TO "HOLD HIGH THE GLORIOUS BANNER OF CHAIRMAN MAO'S THOUGHT" AND TO PLACE "REVOLUTIONISM AHEAD OF MODERNIZATION" AT THE POLITICAL WORK CONFERENCE OF THE PLA IN LATE MAY AND EARLY JUNE. AGAIN TENG AND HIS SUPPORTERS, WHO APPARENTLY ARE IN FIRM CONTROL OF THE PARTY'S PROPAGANDA FUNCTIONS, HAVE SUCCEEDED IN PUTTING ACROSS THEIR VIEWPOINT.

3. THIS YEAR'S ANNIVERSARY, LIKE PAST YEAR'S, HAS AGAIN PASSED WITHOUT ANY ATTEMPT TO BUILD UP THE IMAGE OF CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG. THERE WERE NO SOIREES OR OTHER MEETINGS COMMEMORATING THE ANNIVERSARY WHICH WOULD HAVE PROVIDED MEDIA EVENTS FOR PROJECTING HUA'S IMAGE.
SHOESMITH

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